# MILATARI LIMITED EDITION

The Newsletter of Choice for Milwaukee Area Atari Enthusiasts

January 1995

# WELCOME TO 1995

*This month's meeting Saturday January 21st Noon*

*There is no club disk this month. The Atari Explorer Online and Genie Lamp magazines for January have not come out by the deadline for this month.*

## Editorial

It's January. It's a new year. It's time for a new beginning.

The number of Atari users in Milwaukee has been dwindling since MilAtari was a club with about 300 members. Our membership now, is about 10% of that peak. Just as our membership has declined, so, it seems, has the enthusiasm of the members.

It is hard to keep up enthusiasm for a computer platform that has become, for all practical purposes, an orphan. Atari has shifted its attention to its gaming division. There are few, if any, new products for the Atari computer platform. A number of our members now own IBM compatible computers along with their Atari.

I purchased my IBM compatible because I was tired of seeing all the new, exciting, game software coming out that would never become available for my Atari. I had waited patiently for the new Falcon to come out. I waited and waited. By the time it finally became available I had come to the conclusion that my money would be better spent purchasing an IBM clone.

I do not mean to knock the Atari computer. I am still very much a fan of the Atari operating system, particularly after spending time trying to add new hardware or programs to my IBM. Many IBM programmers seem to get a perverse joy in making their creation as LARGE as they can. The new "OS/2 Warp" wants 35MB to 50MB of free hard disk space, plus an additional 10MB for multimedia support. That's a big chunk of memory even for an IBM hard drive.

MilAtari has the chance to bury any past animosity with MAST and join forces to help both our clubs survive and possibly grow. Each group brings important pluses to a merger.
MilAtari has:
  * Not for profit status
  * A convenient meeting location with storage
  * A stock of Atari hardware and software
MAST has:
  * An enthusiastic leadership
  * A Multiplatform focus

Some people are concerned that if the clubs merge that the Atari platform may fall by the wayside, much the same way the 8-bit has all but disappeared from MilAtari. This is possible, but will only happen if members who use the Atari cease to participate. MAST still has an Atari presence which might actually help bolster Atari support.

Some people in each club are concerned about what the name of a merged club would be. People from MAST, rightly are concerned that the name MilAtari would limit our appeal to Multiplatform users. Some of our members don't care for the MAST name. Linda Heinrich has contacted an attorney and was told that a name change would not be difficult or jeopardize our not-for-profit status. A totally new name would be my choice.

The time to iron out the details of a merger is NOW. Elections for both clubs are just a few months away. Something must be done before then, or I am afraid it will not happen. I am a member of both clubs. I would much prefer that I could be a member of one unified club.

These opinions are mine and do not necessarily reflect the position of MilAtari. I would like to invite any comments on this subject. Actually I would invite any computer related submissions.

Your Newsletter editor
Dave Glish